

## **REMARKS**

### **Status of the Claims**

Upon entry of the amendment above, claims 16-66 will be pending, claim 16 being independent.

### **Summary of the Office Action**

Claim 1-11 is rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

### **Response to the Office Action**

In response to the rejection, Applicants have canceled the rejected claims in favor of new claims 16-57. In addition, withdrawn claims 12-15 have been canceled in favor of new claims 58-66, although identified as withdrawn.

In the new claims Applicants have avoided the issues raised in the rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

### **Amendments to the Specification**

In addition, Applicants have presented amendments to certain paragraphs of the specification of a cosmetic nature, some of which resulted from translation of an original foreign language text. For example, instances of "folds" of fibrous or composite materials (see paragraph 0026, for example) have been changed to "plies" or "sheets".

In paragraph 0036 and original claim 8 (the subject matter of which now appears as claims 45-50), Applicants have corrected an inadvertency in the second and third subparagraphs, whereby "layer(s)" is changed to "core". That is, in paragraph 0036, the parameters CR (rupture stress), M (modulus in longitudinal traction), and AR (elongation at rupture) are assigned to the micro-fibers of the core. The application had previously inadvertently assigned parameters M and AR to the layers of the laminate of the invention.

The amendment has not added prohibited new matter at least inasmuch as the previous paragraph, *viz.*, paragraph 0035, which leads into the description of the specific properties specified in paragraph 0036, explains that the "fibrous reinforcement for the core 2" is "of lesser quality or mechanical strength with respect to the fibrous reinforcement of the outer layers 3 and 4." Further, continuing with the description of paragraph 0035, paragraph 0036 refers to "this notion of lesser quality or mechanical strength", which comment refers back to the comment made in paragraph 0035. Therefore, the values given in paragraph 0036 for parameters CR, M, and AR can be seen to represent values of physical characteristics of the fibers, *i.e.*, threshold values, corresponding to ever decreasing values of the aforementioned strength of the *core*.

#### **SUMMARY**


An amendment is presented which is believed to address and resolve the issues raised in connection with the sole ground of rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

A check is enclosed for payment of a claim fee. No additional fee is believed to be due at this time. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee required for acceptance of this reply as timely and complete to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Further, although no extension of time is believed to be necessary at this time, if it were to be found that an extension of time were necessary to render this reply timely and/or complete, Applicants request an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136(a) in the necessary increment(s) of month(s) to render this reply timely and/or complete and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary extension of time fee under 37 CFR §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Philippe RENARD et al.

  
James L. Rowland  
Reg. No. 32,674

February 3, 2004  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191

703-716-1191 (telephone)  
703-716-1180 (fax)